



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/587,877	06/05/2007	Fritz Jost	026032-5003	3508
22428 7590 09/28/2009 FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP SUITE 500 3000 K STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20007				
EXAMINER				
BLANKENSHIP, GREGORY A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3612				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/28/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,877

Applicant(s)

JOST ET AL.

Examiner

GREGORY BLANKENSHIP

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on preliminary amendment filed 7/27/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15, 21-26 and 28-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16-20, 27 and 32 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-849)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/27/2006/10/5/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 3612

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 is not clearly understood because the phrase "the folding axis extends at an angle relative to the folding axis" is confusing. The examiner has examined the claim as if it read -
-the axis of rotation extends at an angle relative to the folding axis--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 13, 21-26, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Inari (7,025,225).

Inari discloses a vehicle compartment comprising a base (1), a door (2) coupled to the base to fold about an axis between an open position, as shown in Figure 1a, and a closed position,

as shown in Figure 1b, and pin (29) coupling the door (2) to the base (1). The pin has an axis of rotation offset relative to the folding axis, as shown in Figures 3a and 3b. In reference to claim 21, the pin is cylindrical, as shown in Figure DKJD. In reference to claim 22, the pin is a tube. In reference to claim 23, a sleeve is disposed in the base (2) and receives the pin (29), as shown in Figures 3a and 3b. In reference to claim 24, the pin comprises a pair of outwardly extending pins. In reference to claims 25 and 29, the pins are arranged symmetrically about a plane perpendicular to the folding axis. In reference to claim 26, the vehicle component is a glove compartment. Pins (29) engage the seating mounts (15) of the base, as shown in Figures 3a and 3b.

5. Claims 13, 14, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE2644214.

DE2644214 discloses a vehicle component, the engine compartment, with a base, a wall of the engine compartment, and a door, the hood, as shown in Figure 1. The door is coupled to the base and configured to fold about a folding axis (41) between an open and a closed position, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. A pin (36) couples the door to the base and has an axis of rotation (42) that is offset relative to the folding axis, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. In reference to claim 14, the axis of rotation (42) extends at an angle relative to the folding axis (41), as shown in Figure 1. In reference to claim 30, the vehicle has a cockpit or passenger compartment. The base, the wall of the engine compartment, inherently forms the front wall of the passenger compartment. Seating mounts (15) are attached to the base, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The door comprises a pair of pins (29) that engage the seating mounts, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 15 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE2644214.

DE2644214 does not disclose the claimed angle.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the pins of DE2644214 with a shape that results in a five degree to 15 degree angle between the folding axis and the axis of rotation to provide a pivoting mechanism that occupies less space in the engine compartment allowing the size of the engine compartment to be reduced to reduce weight.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 16-20, 27, and 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GREGORY BLANKENSHIP whose telephone number is (571)272-6656. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Greg Blankenship/
Examiner, Art Unit 3612
September 25, 2009